



Chester County, Pennsylvania

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London Britain Township Newsletter

Winter 2006

Meet your newly elected supervisors

On January 3, newly-elected supervisors David Owens and Aileen Parrish join Glenn Frederick as the three elected officials that guide township business.

David, a Libertarian, was elected to fulfill the final two years of Bob Cheyne's term. He was appointed by the supervisors in May, 2006, and served as a supervisor temporarily until the November Municipal elections.

"We held the line on taxes with no property tax increase for 2006," said David of his first six months as a Supervisor. "We also closed on the Dehorty property for 19 more acres to expand our park."

He looks forward to bringing a West Grove Fire Company substation to the new park. "A fire station closeby will reduce response times significantly and can reduce property insurance premiums and give more money back to our residents."

David first moved to the area in 1984 and has lived here all but five years since then. He is married to Lisa Owens and they have



On Election Day, David Owens and Aileen Parrish were near the polls meeting the residents that came to vote.

two children David, 11, and Anthony, 4.

David began a bird release program with his son. "We plan to reestablish some of the species we've lost in the area. This is a private release, not done

with taxpayer money," said David. The Owens' have successfully hatched and released Mallard ducks. They plan to try bobwhites this summer and maybe wild turkeys and pheasants.

David agreed to oversee, and wants to expand the township's deer feeder program.

"My concerns for the township are to see us continue to guide the growth responsibly, to enable us to provide the most protection of our resources," said Aileen Parrish. "We are blessed by our location, bound on the south by the Fair Hill Natural Resources Area and 20 percent of our township is in the White Clay Creek Preserve, the only wildlife preserve in the state of Pennsylvania. If we didn't do everything we could to build on those

natural resources we would be remiss. We need to try to preserve as much of this as possible. This and historic preservation are my passions."

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Township acquires more land for Nichol Park

Bordering Nichol Park on the western side was the Dehorty property, 19 acres of great farmland. On December 27, 2005, the township purchased the property from the Dehorty family for \$672,000. Of that amount \$185,000 came from the township's open space fund. The rest of the funding came from county and state grants.

"This was close to the only piece of property we could have bought to enlarge our park," said Supervisor Glenn Frederick. "The county and state have been telling us Nichol Park is too small for the size of our township. They wanted us to have 35 acres and now we

do."

"This is good for the township," said Supervisor Aileen Parrish and member of the London Britain Land Trust. "I was on the board when we worked to get the funds for the Doris Nichol property (Nichol Park). It's been a good 12 years since we put the first part of the park in place. We've come a long way from that point. It's wonderful that we now have the Dehorty property to expand the park."

Parrish remembers the first event that was ever held at Nichol Park. It was the year the tornado ripped through London Britain Township and the newly ac-

quired, but undeveloped land that would be Nichol Park had become the depository for tree debris. That October the township held a bonfire for the community. "It was a big bonfire," said Parrish. "There had been a lot of debris. We had community booths, former State Senator Clarence Bell presented us with a plaque. The fire company came with its trucks. It was a lot of fun."

"We have the potential to do something we were never able to do before," said Supervisor David Owens. "We are working with West Grove Fire Company to put a fire station on the property. This

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A guide to township meetings

London Britain's supervisors encourage all residents to come to township meetings. "This is the one way to know what is going on in the township," said Glenn Frederick.

Board of Supervisor's meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m.

There is an agenda at each meeting. If there are issues that are of concern to any township resident, they may request to be placed on the agenda by calling

Carolyn Matalon at the township office 610-255-0388. Requests will be accepted until noon on the meeting day.

"Anyone can bring up anything or ask us a question at the meetings," said Frederick. "At the end of each meeting we allow time for public comment on any topic. If you don't want to wait until the end of the meeting, call ahead of time and ask to be placed on the agenda."

New business, old business, roads, and zoning issues are discussed at each meet-

ing. The second Monday meeting is when all land development issues are addressed. The fourth Monday meeting addresses township bills.

Stay informed about what is happening on your street, in your neighborhood, or just down the highway. Come to a supervisor's meeting, meet the supervisors and the employees that serve the needs of the township and become familiar with the process.

Meet supervisors.... *(continued from page 1)*

Aileen moved to the area in 1989 with her husband Frank, and son Andrew. Andrew is now a freshman in college.

In the early 1990's Aileen began her involvement in the township by starting the process to create the township's Historic Commission. She served on the original Parks and Recreation Board (a precursor to Nichols Park and the Park

Commission). In 1999 Aileen was a founding trustee of the London Britain Land Trust.

This will be her second time serving as a London Britain Township supervisor. In 1991 she was appointed to the board to fulfill a vacated position. She was elected to a six-year term from 1993-1999. Now, Aileen will serve the

township for another six years.

Both David and Aileen know they will face many issues, including clean water, septic, and development. Both hope to have time to also pursue those issues that interest them and hope to continue to keep the rural and natural resources of London Britain Township.

Township acquires more land.... *(continued from page 1)*

will reduce response times for fires in the area to a minimum. Having a fire station close by could save our residents some money on their house insurance premiums."

"Buying the new land was the appropriate thing to do for the future of the township and our residents," said Owens. "Now our Park Commission has new

land to work with. We will start the Master Site Plan work in February. There is the opportunity for new recreational facilities and eventually a new township building. We could add more playing fields. I'd like to see an amphitheater. Residents tell me they'd like to have permanent restroom facilities at the park."

Parrish envisions building a tree nursery in the new park where the township can purchase seedlings cheaply, allow them to grow in the nursery and then transplant the trees throughout the township as screening.

"People enjoy our park now," said Owens. "This new land has the potential to do good things."

The US Census

The U.S. Census Bureau began expanding the American Community Survey (ACS) throughout the nation in December 2004. This survey will allow the Census Bureau to conduct a short form only census in 2010 and to provide socio-economic information every year, rather than just once a decade. Each month, a sample of different households will receive the ACS questionnaire to complete. Response is mandatory. You can learn more about ACS at www.census.gov.

Stay Warm PA

With the projected rise in costs for heating homes this winter, Governor Rendell has organized an energy program to help low-income Pennsylvanians stay warm.

There are additional funds to assist in paying heating costs and programs available to help low-income homeowners better insulate their homes.

One example is that the Southern Chester County United Way has weatherization kits available for low income residents. Volunteers are also available

to install the weatherproofing. Call Carrie Freeman at 610-444-HELP for more information.

Governor Rendell announced a new web site: www.staywarmpa.com. The web site provides contact information for those who need help with their utility bills, furnace repairs, weatherization of their home, information of LIHEAP, energy tips, information for county assistance and area agencies for older Pennsylvanians.

LBT News and notes

2006 Township Taxes

For 2006 there was no increase over 2005 in the township tax millage rate. It remains at 2.451 mills and includes 2.251 for the general fund and .25 mills for the open space fund.

Displaying house numbers

All properties must have house numbers displayed so that emergency personnel can see them from the street. Numbers should be reflective and at least six inches tall. Numbers should be placed near the driveway and on the front of the house and not hidden by vegetation or decorations.

Licensed contractors

A list of all contractors licensed to do business in London Britain Township can be found at the township's web site: www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov.

State law mandates that townships license all contractors working in its borders. Therefore residents should use only those contractors listed.

Dog license reminder

All dogs at least three months of age are required by Pennsylvania State Law to have a license, whether they are kept indoors or not. Licenses are valid for one year, starting January 1 and expiring December 31, regardless of when purchased. Lifetime licenses are also available, valid for the life of the dog. If your dog does not have a current license, you are subject to a fine of up to \$300.

Licenses are available from the Chester County Treasurer by mail or in person and through authorized agents. The boroughs of West Grove and Oxford are both authorized agents for dog licenses. For complete information, call 610-344-6370. A link for the Pennsylvania Dog License Application, can be found at the township's web site or downloaded at www.chesco.org by searching the site.

Comprehensive Plan update begins

The Comprehensive Plan Committee met for the first of 12 to 15 monthly meetings that will ultimately define how the township will grow and develop over the next 10 years.

Many residents have stepped forward as volunteers for this committee. The chairman is Joe McNelis. Committee members include Debbie Roberts, Charles Carroll, Al Swizer, Don Peters, Lou Leberti, Sally Cheyne, Stephanie Town, Leslie Town, and Chris Wetham.

The plan will identify viewsheds, roadways, and areas within the township that are important to preserve. It will determine where commercial development can occur within the township's boundaries. Eventually new ordinances will be enacted to support the updated Comprehensive Plan.

"A lot of people are dismayed that we lost a unique characteristic of our township with the reconfiguration of the intersection of Good Hope and Penn Green Road," said McNelis. "Granted it was an unsafe intersection and the road is going to handle a lot more traffic, but we lost a viewshed. It was turned into something else. The comprehensive plan will identify viewsheds and roads that we want to keep as they are."

In the spring the Comprehensive Plan committee will be sending out a survey to develop an understanding of resident's views for the township. Get your opinions heard when you send it back!

London Britain Township is the slowest growing township in Chester County partly because of the Growing Greener ordinance that was enacted with the township's previous Comprehensive Plan.

The Chester County Planning Commission will act as consultants for this project.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee meets the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Township Building, on Good Hope Road.

Winter weather warnings

It's the season for snow and ice and Joe and the road department thank you in advance for your cooperation in making the roads safe for plowing and salting this season.

The Township plows all main roads first and subdivision roads last. Crews work around-the-clock to clear the roads as quickly as possible.

On parking during snow and ice

- Cul de sacs will not be plowed if cars are parked in them.
- Do not park on or within the right of way on all Township roads.
- Emergency parking during storms is allowed within two feet of the edge of the road surface; however, the Township shall not be responsible for damage to any vehicles parked within the Township right of way at any time.
- Ticketing and towing may be enforced this year when cars are parked illegally on the roads.

No rocks or boulders will be allowed in the Township right of way. Rocks cause damage to the plows, trucks, and injuries to the drivers. Homeowners will be liable for any damage to the equipment or injuries to the drivers.

The Township is not responsible for any damages to mail boxes.

Coming soon...

London Britain Township is compiling a list of useful information about the township and what is required of its residents. Information will cover topics such as septic systems, roads, taxes, building permits, and township services. Call Carolyn at 610-255-0388 with suggestions of items that should be included. Look for this information in the next newsletter.

LBT's web site is filled with useful information and can be found at:
www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov

London Britain Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

Glenn C. Frederick, Chairman
David Owens, Vice Chairman
Aileen Parrish, Member

Township Employees

Township Secretary- Carolyn Matalon
Director of Public Works and Zoning Officer
-Dave Messaros
Roadmaster- Joe Ferguson
Township Engineer- Pat Walsh/Walsh Engr.
Tax Collector- Margaret Boddie
Treasurer- Nette Stejskal
Park Events Director- Carolyn Matalon
Newsletter Editor- Carla Lucas

Township Office/Meeting Hall/Garage

81 Good Hope Road
Landenberg, Pa. 19350

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 215, Kemblesville, PA 19347

Phone: 610-255-0388

Fax: 610-255-3542

Email: carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net

Web site:

www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov

Township Meetings

All meetings are held at the LBT Meeting Hall

Board of Supervisors Meetings:
2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 PM

Planning Commission Meetings:
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 PM

Help restore West Grove Fire Company's Antique 22



It took less than an hour for the team from WGFC to get "Antique 22," the company's first pumper running again in Tioga County. Now the fire company plans to restore it.

Antique 22 was the first pumper truck bought by the West Grove Fire Company in 1927. It was made by Hale in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, delivered to WGFC in February 1928, and cost \$3,700.

In 1954 the pumper was sold for \$150. Since then it had a few owners. Most recently this fire truck was owned by Elsie Thorpe and kept in a barn, in Elkdale, Tioga County, Pennsylvania (only a couple of miles from the New York state border). It was occasionally used to water the Thorpe's orchard and driven in parades.

Elsie Thorpe called WGFC's Chief John Chambers last October to inquire if WGFC would want to purchase its fire truck back. The company unanimously agreed to bring this piece of history back to the community.

Now WGFC wants to restore Antique 22 to its original condition.

"We plan to take it (the pumper) to the frame and repaint and restore it. We want it to look like the day it was

delivered in 1928," said Antique 22 Committee Chairman Mike Predmore. "We plan to make it look like the modest, inexpensive suburban fire truck it was meant to be."

To separate the cost of reburbishing Antique 22 from the fire company's operating funds, a special fund was established to accept donations specifically for the restoration project.

WGFC asked the municipalities it serves for donations toward the restoration. LBT supervisors do not think it is appropriate to donate township dollars to the fund. Instead they are asking residents to donate individually. If interested in contributing to the restoration of Antique 22 send donations to: West Grove Fire Company, Antique 22 Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 20, West Grove, PA 19390.

WGFC has nicknamed the truck "Elsie" in honor of Elsie Thorpe. Photos of the truck as it was being brought back to West Grove can be found at West Grove Fire Company's

website: www.westgrovefirecompany.org. Click on Antique 22.

London Britain Township
P. O. Box 215
Kemblesville, PA 19347

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